OER and the importance of Open Educators

Fabio Nascimbeni, Daniel Burgos
Menu of the day

16.30 Warm up & critical questions, by Daniel
Presentation of OEF and quick demo of the platform, by Fabio

17.00 Experts round table (T. Amiel, C. de la Higuera, A. Camilleri), moderated by Daniel
  - what could be done to empower open educators?
  - how can OEF contribute to make this happen?

17.30 Wrap up and conclusions, by Fabio

17.45 Time to play with the platform and to setup collaborations
Rationale: why the OEF research

Why Open Education adoption is so slow? What do we need?

http://www.freakingnews.com/Snail-Pictures-1603.asp
Critical questions

• Why is that important to become an open educator?
• What challenges do the teachers face in the process?
• What benefits will the various stakeholders get?
• Is it bad or wrong not to become an open educator ever?
We need a peaceful army of Open Educators.

Educators (professors, tutors, lecturers) are the ones who should drive the change towards openness, they must transform from agents of resistance into agents of change.
The OEF research

1. Explore concept of “Open Educator” along all its components

2. Design, build and test a tool that can contribute to transform HE teachers into Open Educators

3. Promote the use of the tool among universities

4. Analyse the data and propose recommendations
Definition of Open Educator

An Open Educator chooses to use open approaches, when possible and appropriate, with the aim to remove all unnecessary barriers to learning.

He/she works through an open online identity and relies on online social networking to enrich and implement her work, understanding that collaboration bears a responsibility towards the work of others.

Nascimbeni, Burgos (2016). In search for the Open Educator, IRRODL, 17 (6)
## The OEF Framework

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<th>Design</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Teaching</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open designer</td>
<td>OER specialist</td>
<td>Open teacher</td>
<td>Open evaluator</td>
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<td>Collaborative designer</td>
<td>OER user</td>
<td>Engaging teacher</td>
<td>Innovative evaluator</td>
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<td>Individual designer</td>
<td>New to OER</td>
<td>Traditional teacher</td>
<td>Traditional evaluator</td>
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The OEF web platform

The OEF platform allows university educators to self-assess their capacity and level of development in terms of Open Education and provides some guidelines to further adopt openness in all dimensions of their activities.

If you are a university educator, just fill a short questionnaire and you will see how you "position" with respect to different openness dimensions. You will also receive immediate feedback with some ideas, suggestions and inspirations that shall improve your work in terms of openness, effectiveness and impact.

If you are a university manager and you want to improve the openness capacity of your teaching staff, get in touch with us so that we can add your institution to the system; then educators from your university will fill the questionnaire and you will be able to see how they "position" with respect to different openness dimensions.

Your data will be used only for the present research. Upon request, data from this research will be shared openly in editable file formats, always preventing the identification of personal sources or persons. Your data can be removed at any time under your request to research@unit.net. We appreciate your contribution to this research.
Two main findings

Openness has many “entry points”

The relation between Openness and Collaboration is clear
We also learnt that:

1. Each teacher is different

2. Institutional context matters

3. Terminology is important

4. Teachers might tend to “over-rate” their openness
Future of the project

1. **Foster the use** the OEF platform: the more data we get, the more useful the tool will be for the community.

2. **Translate** the platform into other languages (RU, CH)

3. **Next research phase** on relation between Openness and Collaboration, investigating the impact of Open Culture (sharing) on teaching practices: “If you cannot convince teachers to be open, teach them how to network!”
This is an open research project

http://wikieducator.org/Research/open_educators_factory
OEF: http://rd.unir.net/pub/oef

Web: http://ited.unir.net
Twitter: @UNIRResearch_En, @UNIRResearch
Email: transfer.ucc@unir.net, fabio.nascimbeni@unir.net
What do we want to discuss

1. What could be done to increase openness fluency of HE educators?
   1. Empower champions?
   2. Motivate newbies?
   3. Build specific capacities?

2. How can OEF contribute to this?
   1. Are we on the right track?
   2. How to engage leaders?
   3. How to engage individual teachers?

3. Any other important issue